

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRIDGE 00132 172015Z
ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 L-03 AID-05 IGA-02 MCE-00
DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 OMB-01 EB-08
TRSE-00 /042 W
-----033617 172020Z /43

R 162144Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4458

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRIDGETOWN 0132

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASUP, EAID, PINS, BB
SUBJECT: SURPLUS MILITARY EQUIPMENT--GOB INQUIRY RE LST 854
KEMPER COUNTY (NORTH POINT)

1. BY SEPTTEL WE HAVE TRANSMITTED THE TEXT OF A NOTE FROM THE
BARBADOS MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS REQUESTING A LIST OF ALL
THE EQUIPMENT TRANSFERRED WITH LST 854 "KEMPER COUNTY" WHEN
THIS VESSEL WAS SOLD TO THE GOB AS SURPLUS BY AID IN JUNE 1975.
THE GOB ALSO REQUEST IT BE INFORMED IF LST 854 SAW SERVICE
IN VIEWT-NAM. KEMPER COUNTY RECHRISTENED NORTH POINT IN BARBA-
DOS.

2. MISSION FILES INCOMPLETE REGARDING THIS LST TRANSACTION.
OUR FILES INDICATED THREE 26 FOOT WHALEBOATS, ONE 40 FOOT
UTILITY BOAT, FIVE INFLATABLE LIFE RAFTS FORMED PART OF
"IN PLACE TRANSFER" OF KEMPER COUNTY FOR TOTAL VALUATION
\$1,334,175. ABOVE FROM COPY OF REQUISITION AND INVOICE/
SHIPPING DOCUMENT DATED OCTOBER 8, 1975 AND ISSUED BY
INACTIVE SHIP FACILITY, VALLEJO, CALIFORNIA. IN ADDITION,
A CARGO OF CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT AND VEHICLES POSSIBLY
VALUED APPROXIMATELY \$250,000 MAY HAVE BEEN CARRIED BY
NORTH POINT ON ITS DELIVERY VOYAGE AS CARGO DESTINED FOR GOB.

3. COMMENT: THIS REQUEST RELATES TO THE CURRENT INQUIRY BY THE
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DUFFUS COMMISSION INTO VARIOUS TRANSACTIONS OF THE BARROW
ADMINISTRATION. DUFFUS, A FORMER CHIEF JUSTICE OF JAMAICA HAS
BEEN APPOINTED BY GOB TO ACT AS ONE MAN COMMISSION OF INQUIRY.
THERE ARE SUSPICIONS OF IRREGULARITIES IN CONNECTION WITH THE
TRANSFER OF LST "KEMPER COUNTY" (NORTH POINT). THE REQUEST
FROM THE GOB ORIGINATES IN THE OFFICE OF PRIME MINISTER ADAMS
AND PRESENTS DIFFICULT POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS.

4. RECOMMENDATION: WE RECOMMEND THAT AID FILES BE REVIEWED FOR INFORMATION REQUESTED BY GOB. PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT OF LST KEMPER COUNTRY SHOULD BE OBTAINABLE THROUGH CHIEF NAVAL OPERATIONS. ONCE DATA IS AVAILABLE WE BELIEVE THAT ON BALANCE IT WOULD BE ADVISABLE THAT WE FURNISH REQUESTED INFORMATION TO GOB VIA THIRD PERSON NOTE. NOT TO DO SO WOULD PLACE US IN POSTURE OF OBSTRUCTING A LEGALLY EMPANELED JUDICIAL INQUIRY.
EDDY

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Message Attributes

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY EQUIPMENT
Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 16 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Review Markings:
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